* Sensitization of teachers/Head Masters on regular absentees/ working children of marginalized sections of Society.

* Relevant strategies towards the pedagogy of first generation learners.

* Sensitization of parents on continuation of their children and their attendance.

* Improvement of schools infrastructure and other facilities like provision of Mid-day Meal.

* Implementation of child centered activity based and playful pedagogy.

* Close and continuous monitoring by community and department.

* Discouraging repetitions and efforts for regular transition and actual completion rates.

* Reguiar attendance monitoring through Mandal Resource Persons.

(c) As stated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, main reasons for low enrolment in rural areas are illiteracy of parents, lack of community awareness and mobilization for enrolment to the expected level.

Performance of mid-day meal scheme

757. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the twin objectives of the Central Government scheme to increase the number of school going children and to provide nutritious food in the mid-day meals has not achieved desired results throughout country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to achieve the twin objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Under the revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme, effected from September, 2004, cooked food of minimum 300 calories with 8-12 grams

of protein is being provided as nutritional support to children studying at Primary stage in Government, Government aided, Local body schools and EGS/AIE centres in the country including Andhra Pradesh. Cooked food is being given even during summer vacation in drought affected areas. There are reports of positive impact of the scheme on enrolment and attendance of children.

Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarship

758. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government gave away Indira Gandhi Post Graduate Scholarship at the rate of Rs. 2000/- p.m. to single girls students recently;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the number of ineligible students were also given certificates;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many students who were given certificates were in professional courses whereas the scholarships were meant for non-professional courses; and

(d)-the number of total recipients in the categories of professional and non-professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), in some cases certificate awardees were found to be ineligible. However, scholarship amounts have not been released so far in such cases. Institutions, where such candidates have taken admission, have been asked to verify/certify eligibility.

(c) Information is being collected.

(d) Out of the total awardees 1451 were selected for non professional courses and 162 for professional courses.